REMARKS

Claims 3-20 are now present in this application, with new claims 10-20 being added by the present Preliminary Amendment. It should be noted that the amendments to original claims 1-9 of the present application are non-narrowing amendments, made solely to place the claims in proper form for U.S. practice and not to overcome any prior art or for any other statutory considerations. For example, amendments have been made to broaden the claims; remove reference numerals in the claims; remove the European phrase "characterized in that"; remove multiple dependencies in the claims; and to place claims in a more recognizable U.S. form, including the use of the transitional phrase "comprising" as well as the phrase "wherein". Other such non-narrowing amendments include rearranging method claims in a more recognizable U.S. form (in paragraph form beginning each paragraph with an –ing verb). Again, all amendments are non-narrowing and have been made solely to place the claims in proper form for U.S. practice and not to overcome any prior art or for any other statutory considerations.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and remarks, an early indication of the allowability of each of claims 1-20 in connection with the present application is earnestly solicited.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Donald J. Daley at the telephone number of the undersigned below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 12/28/01

By: _____
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ATTACHMENT FOR CLAIM AMENDMENTS

The following is a marked up version of each amended claim in which underlines indicates insertions and brackets indicate deletions.

1. A method for handling a database containing objects [2, 20, A, B] that have an extension in a coordinate system representing a multidimensional reality, [which] the coordinate system [is] being divisible into a plurality of defined, multidimensional intervals [(22-25; 61-69)], [characterized by,] each time an object is entered into the database, the method comprising:

determining which multidimensional intervals the object has an extension in [,];

comparing [said] the determined number of objects with a predetermined threshold value; and [,]

dividing, if the threshold value is exceeded, [dividing] the interval into at least two smaller intervals, in order to limit the number of objects related to an extension in any given, defined interval.

2. A method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the step of linking each interval [(22-25; 61-69)] to a set of objects [(20; A, B)] having an extension in the interval.

3. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 [or 2], further comprising the step of linking each object [(20; A, B)] to a set of intervals [(22-25; 61-69)] within which the object has an extension.

4. (Amended) A method as claimed [in any one of the preceding claims] in claim 1, wherein the coordinate system comprises at least one time dimension.

5. (Amended) A method as claimed [in any one of the preceding claims] in claim 1, wherein the coordinate system comprises at least one [or more, preferably three,] spatial [dimensions] dimension.

6. (Amended) A method as claimed in [in any one of the preceding claims] claim 1, wherein each division of an interval occurs in only one dimension.

7. (Amended) A method as claimed in [in any one of the preceding claims] claim 1, wherein, when the threshold value is exceeded, the interval is divided into two smaller intervals.

8. (Amended) A method as claimed in [in any one of the preceding claims] claim 1, wherein, when the threshold value is exceeded, the interval is divided into two intervals of equal size.

9. (Amended) A method as claimed in [in any one of the preceding claims] claim 1, further comprising the step of adjusting the division of intervals when the relation between an object and an extension in the coordinate system is removed.